

Dear Caroline,

30 June 2020

How much tighter does the noose around the neck of free speech have to tighten whilst we witness the long arm of the US reaching into the rectum of the UK's legal system, before you will speak out in support of Julian Assange?

Yesterday's (29 June) hearing went ahead with a so called "superseding indictment issued by the United States against Assange on Wednesday June 24. But it has not been formally entered into the extradition proceedings—yet another Kafkaesque development whereby UK legal proceedings are continuing on the basis of an indictment which has been replaced and therefore has no legal force in the US."

WikiLeaks editor-in-chief Kristinn Hrafnsson said after the hearing, "A superseding indictment is supposed to do what it says on the tin, it's supposed to replace the existing indictment. But the US have no new charges to bring, and they can't even be bothered to send the court or the defence team the document. That just shows this is a glorified press release and not a new indictment at all. This shows how they are abusing due process in the UK and flaunting the legal system's rules."

At the same time, the new indictment deepens the assault on freedom of the press being waged by the US government.

Please Caroline, your silence is deafening, speak out - its getting more urgent NOW !

Regards,

Natasha

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2020/06/30/assa-j30.html>

Harrison, Applebaum and one-time WikiLeaks employee Daniel Domscheit-Berg are now also targeted as "co-conspirators." Efforts to help a persecuted whistleblower (Snowden) gain asylum, and even speech in defence of his actions, are criminalised, as are the most general statements in support of government transparency. One of the statements cited as an example in the indictment is Harrison saying, "from the beginning our mission has been to publish classified or in any other way censored information that is of political, historical importance." Shifting the focus to WikiLeaks's distribution of classified material, for example to partner media organisations, threatens a wide range of journalists and outlets."